

For Release: Wednesday, April 08, 2015

15-543-ATL

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 • BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

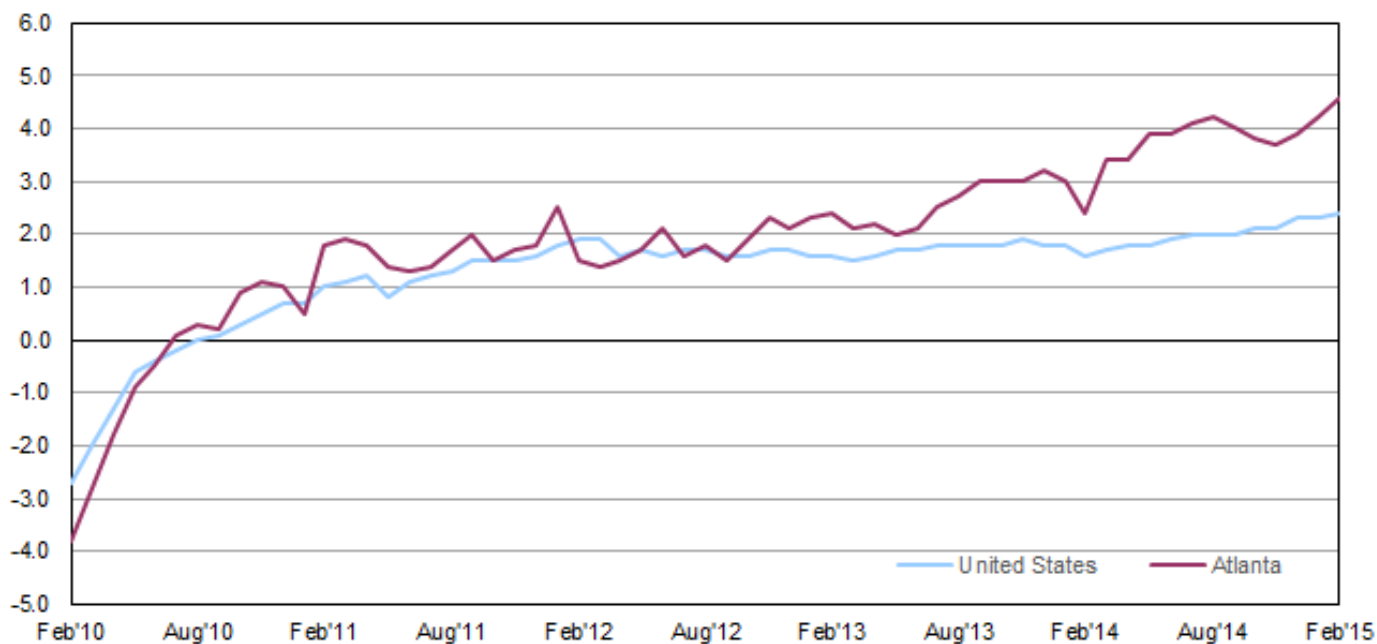
Media contact: (404) 893-4220 •

Atlanta Area Employment – February 2015

Total nonfarm employment for the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,541,000 in February 2015, an increase of 110,900 or 4.6 percent, from a year ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the Atlanta area has recorded over-the-year employment gains each month for the last four and a half years. Nationally, nonfarm employment increased 2.4 percent from February 2014 to February 2015. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#); the [Technical Note](#) at the end of this release contains metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the United States and the Atlanta metropolitan area, February 2010–February 2015

Percent change



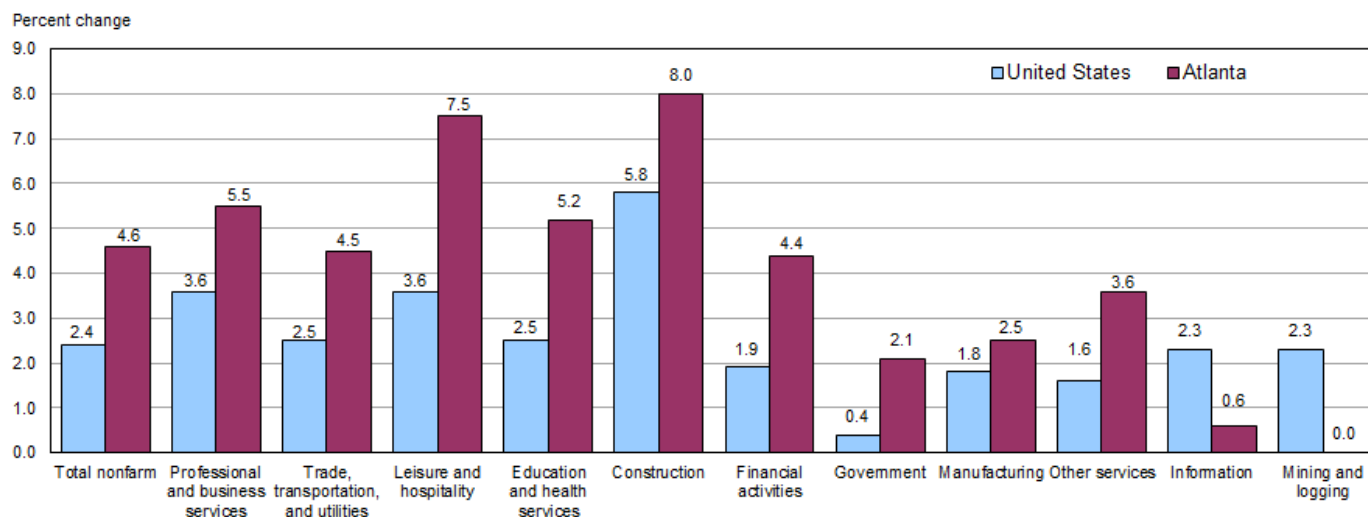
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industry employment

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, professional and business services recorded the largest employment gain from February 2014 to February 2015, adding 24,200 jobs. The area's 5.5-percent growth in professional and business services employment was larger than the nationwide increase of 3.6 percent. (See [chart 2](#).)

Trade, transportation, and utilities had the second largest increase in jobs locally, increasing by 24,100 from the previous February. Employment in this supersector grew 4.5 percent in Atlanta compared to 2.5 percent for the nation.

Chart 2. Total nonfarm and selected industry supersector employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and the Atlanta metropolitan area, February 2015



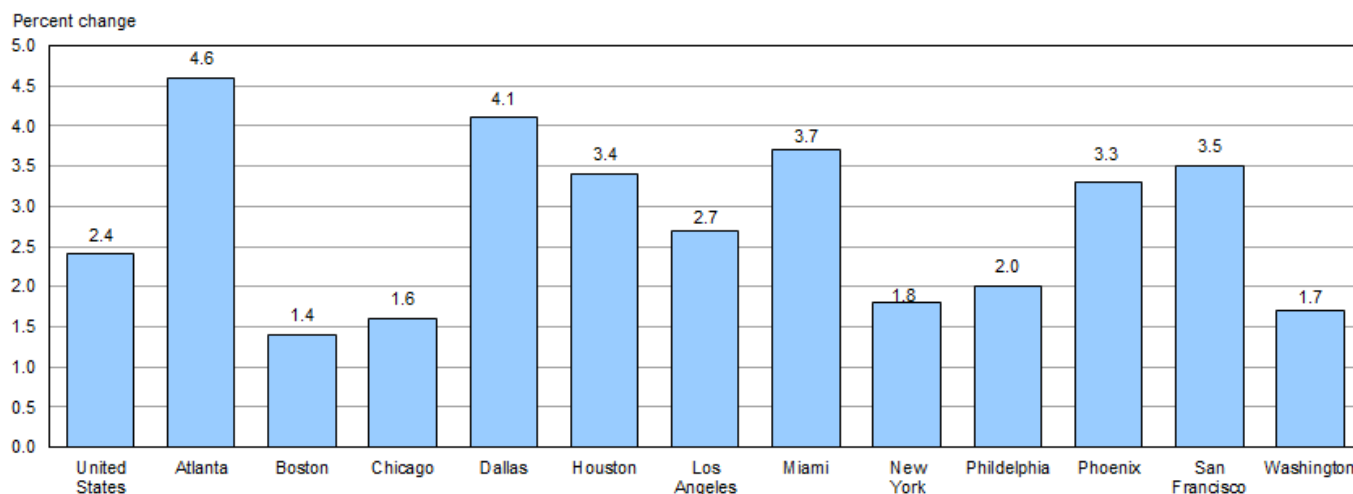
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Two other supersectors in the Atlanta area gained at least 15,000 jobs from February 2014 to February 2015. Employment in leisure and hospitality increased 7.5 percent, adding 18,200 jobs, while education and health services grew 5.2 percent, or 15,600, over the previous year. The local rates of employment gain in these supersectors were more than double those for the nation.

Twelve largest metropolitan areas

Atlanta was 1 of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas in February 2015. All 12 areas experienced over-the-year job growth during the period, with 7 exceeding the national average of 2.4 percent. The fastest rate of job growth was registered in Atlanta, up 4.6 percent, followed by Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, up 4.1 percent. The slowest rate of expansion occurred in Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, up 1.4 percent. (See [chart 3](#) and [table 2](#).)

Chart 3. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change, United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, February 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The New York-Newark-Jersey City area added the largest number of jobs, 162,300, since February 2014. Employment in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Dallas, and Atlanta increased by over 100,000. Boston experienced the smallest gain, adding 34,400 jobs over the 12-month period.

Education and health services registered the largest over-the-year employment gains in 5 of the 12 metropolitan areas from February a year ago—Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria. Professional and business services added the most jobs in Atlanta, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, and San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward.

Manufacturing recorded the largest over-the-year loss of jobs in five areas—Boston, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Los Angeles, New York, and Phoenix. Atlanta, Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, and Miami experienced no annual job losses in any sector.

Metropolitan area employment data for March 2015 are scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. (ET).

Changes to Current Employment Statistics Data

Effective with the release of January 2015 data, nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states, metropolitan areas, and metropolitan divisions were revised to reflect 2014 benchmark levels. For more information on benchmark procedures, see <http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm>.

Revised metropolitan area and metropolitan division delineations were also implemented with the release of January 2015 data. The revised delineations were issued by the Office of Management and Budget for solely statistical purposes through Bulletin No. 13-01 on February 28, 2013, based on the application of updated statistical standards to U.S. Census Bureau population and journey-to-work data.

Note that Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, Ariz., replaces Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, Mich., in the 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas discussion based on annual estimates of population change by the U.S. Census Bureau. For further information, see <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/metro/totals/2013/index.html>.

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor between State employment security agencies and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2012 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 39 percent of CES published series which have insufficient sample for direct sample-based estimates.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is

used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates. The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the delineations issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on February 28, 2013. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is available at www.bls.gov/lau/lausmsa.htm.

The **Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Ga. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes the counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dawson, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton in Georgia.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in Employment and Earnings, which is available online at www.bls.gov/opub/ee/home.htm. Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the Current Employment Statistics program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at www.bls.gov/sae/.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, United States and Atlanta metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015 ^(P)	Change from Feb 2014 to Feb 2015 ^(P)	
					Number	Percent
United States.....						
Total nonfarm.....	136,257	141,484	138,663	139,566	3,309	2.4
Mining and logging.....	860	912	893	880	20	2.3
Construction.....	5,612	6,175	5,926	5,935	323	5.8
Manufacturing.....	12,019	12,302	12,214	12,235	216	1.8
Trade transportation and utilities.....	25,743	27,402	26,540	26,384	641	2.5
Information.....	2,707	2,775	2,737	2,770	63	2.3
Financial activities.....	7,879	8,059	8,018	8,029	150	1.9
Professional and business services.....	18,562	19,519	19,112	19,228	666	3.6
Education and health services.....	21,374	21,893	21,634	21,916	542	2.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	13,908	14,597	14,274	14,415	507	3.6
Other services.....	5,483	5,589	5,550	5,573	90	1.6
Government.....	22,110	22,261	21,765	22,201	91	0.4
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,430.1	2,566.7	2,528.8	2,541.0	110.9	4.6
Mining and logging.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Construction.....	95.7	102.3	100.4	103.4	7.7	8.0
Manufacturing.....	149.8	153.5	153.9	153.6	3.8	2.5
Trade transportation and utilities.....	539.2	582.2	565.9	563.3	24.1	4.5
Information.....	87.9	89.6	87.8	88.4	0.5	0.6
Financial activities.....	156.6	163.0	163.6	163.5	6.9	4.4
Professional and business services.....	443.1	472.5	462.6	467.3	24.2	5.5
Education and health services.....	300.9	313.9	313.6	316.5	15.6	5.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	241.6	264.1	258.2	259.8	18.2	7.5
Other services.....	92.3	96.3	96.0	95.6	3.3	3.6
Government.....	321.7	328.0	325.5	328.3	6.6	2.1

^(P) Preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015 ^(P)	Change from Feb 2014 to Feb 2015 ^(P)	
					Number	Percent
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,430.1	2,566.7	2,528.8	2,541.0	110.9	4.6
Mining and logging.....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Construction.....	95.7	102.3	100.4	103.4	7.7	8.0
Manufacturing.....	149.8	153.5	153.9	153.6	3.8	2.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	539.2	582.2	565.9	563.3	24.1	4.5
Information.....	87.9	89.6	87.8	88.4	0.5	0.6
Financial activities.....	156.6	163.0	163.6	163.5	6.9	4.4
Professional and business services.....	443.1	472.5	462.6	467.3	24.2	5.5
Education and health services.....	300.9	313.9	313.6	316.5	15.6	5.2
Leisure and hospitality.....	241.6	264.1	258.2	259.8	18.2	7.5
Other services.....	92.3	96.3	96.0	95.6	3.3	3.6
Government.....	321.7	328.0	325.5	328.3	6.6	2.1
Boston-Cambridge-Nashua, MA-NH.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,531.5	2,629.8	2,569.1	2,565.9	34.4	1.4
Mining, logging, and construction.....	83.8	95.4	89.0	86.4	2.6	3.1
Manufacturing.....	191.4	192.5	191.9	190.7	-0.7	-0.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	402.9	429.3	414.6	404.4	1.5	0.4
Information.....	74.1	76.1	75.1	76.0	1.9	2.6
Financial activities.....	170.7	173.7	173.0	172.7	2.0	1.2
Professional and business services.....	428.8	446.4	438.3	437.9	9.1	2.1
Education and health services.....	537.2	551.0	540.6	547.3	10.1	1.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	230.8	245.1	233.6	230.8	0.0	0.0
Other services.....	96.8	100.9	100.5	99.4	2.6	2.7
Government.....	315.0	319.4	312.5	320.3	5.3	1.7
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI.....						
Total nonfarm.....	4,385.6	4,563.5	4,439.4	4,455.3	69.7	1.6
Mining and logging.....	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Construction.....	132.1	153.0	136.8	138.0	5.9	4.5
Manufacturing.....	407.2	411.4	406.6	406.1	-1.1	-0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	883.9	944.1	906.8	900.5	16.6	1.9
Information.....	78.9	81.0	80.6	80.0	1.1	1.4
Financial activities.....	286.1	288.4	285.9	285.8	-0.3	-0.1
Professional and business services.....	768.7	803.5	778.3	784.2	15.5	2.0
Education and health services.....	684.3	699.7	691.1	696.8	12.5	1.8
Leisure and hospitality.....	409.4	431.1	417.2	418.9	9.5	2.3
Other services.....	190.9	192.8	191.6	191.5	0.6	0.3
Government.....	542.9	557.1	543.3	552.3	9.4	1.7
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX.....						
Total nonfarm.....	3,199.8	3,359.3	3,316.7	3,332.2	132.4	4.1
Mining, logging, and construction.....	184.9	199.2	198.7	201.5	16.6	9.0
Manufacturing.....	260.4	263.0	263.4	262.7	2.3	0.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	664.1	714.5	697.0	695.2	31.1	4.7
Information.....	81.9	81.5	81.9	81.7	-0.2	-0.2
Financial activities.....	261.4	272.2	269.5	271.4	10.0	3.8
Professional and business services.....	518.4	554.2	547.1	545.6	27.2	5.2
Education and health services.....	394.6	413.6	410.3	410.7	16.1	4.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	317.7	334.3	329.6	335.8	18.1	5.7
Other services.....	114.0	115.4	113.5	115.5	1.5	1.3
Government.....	402.4	411.4	405.7	412.1	9.7	2.4

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Area and Industry	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015 ^(P)	Change from Feb 2014 to Feb 2015 ^(P)	
					Number	Percent
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,869.7	2,992.6	2,945.6	2,966.4	96.7	3.4
Mining and logging.....	107.7	115.5	113.5	113.5	5.8	5.4
Construction.....	196.9	208.8	204.9	205.8	8.9	4.5
Manufacturing.....	251.8	258.7	255.7	253.7	1.9	0.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	584.6	620.1	602.8	603.6	19.0	3.3
Information.....	33.0	32.6	32.7	33.3	0.3	0.9
Financial activities.....	145.9	149.3	147.3	148.2	2.3	1.6
Professional and business services.....	450.3	470.4	465.5	465.0	14.7	3.3
Education and health services.....	344.9	359.2	357.6	361.0	16.1	4.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	274.4	290.0	285.8	291.2	16.8	6.1
Other services.....	102.1	104.3	103.6	103.7	1.6	1.6
Government.....	378.1	383.7	376.2	387.4	9.3	2.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA.....						
Total nonfarm.....	5,649.1	5,853.1	5,761.5	5,801.5	152.4	2.7
Mining and logging.....	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	-0.1	-1.9
Construction.....	196.3	204.9	203.0	206.6	10.3	5.2
Manufacturing.....	524.3	524.7	521.5	523.1	-1.2	-0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,038.8	1,102.3	1,072.1	1,062.7	23.9	2.3
Information.....	220.7	224.3	214.9	223.9	3.2	1.4
Financial activities.....	321.0	328.0	326.8	328.0	7.0	2.2
Professional and business services.....	872.0	900.9	885.2	892.6	20.6	2.4
Education and health services.....	931.2	967.1	952.8	967.4	36.2	3.9
Leisure and hospitality.....	637.4	666.4	660.5	663.9	26.5	4.2
Other services.....	194.8	202.4	201.8	203.1	8.3	4.3
Government.....	707.3	726.8	717.7	725.0	17.7	2.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,401.5	2,500.3	2,473.0	2,490.8	89.3	3.7
Mining and logging.....	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0
Construction.....	96.5	106.4	104.2	105.7	9.2	9.5
Manufacturing.....	80.1	82.0	80.9	81.9	1.8	2.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	558.3	588.6	579.4	576.1	17.8	3.2
Information.....	47.5	48.6	48.0	48.3	0.8	1.7
Financial activities.....	166.2	173.9	172.2	172.5	6.3	3.8
Professional and business services.....	380.7	402.8	395.6	401.1	20.4	5.4
Education and health services.....	352.4	367.5	363.6	367.8	15.4	4.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	297.3	305.7	303.4	308.5	11.2	3.8
Other services.....	116.0	120.3	121.1	121.5	5.5	4.7
Government.....	305.9	303.9	304.0	306.8	0.9	0.3
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA.....						
Total nonfarm.....	8,919.6	9,312.8	9,049.7	9,081.9	162.3	1.8
Mining, logging, and construction.....	309.9	352.4	328.0	319.9	10.0	3.2
Manufacturing.....	369.0	367.8	364.0	362.3	-6.7	-1.8
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	1,651.1	1,769.0	1,701.9	1,681.7	30.6	1.9
Information.....	282.2	283.6	279.6	283.7	1.5	0.5
Financial activities.....	745.3	752.7	747.8	749.3	4.0	0.5
Professional and business services.....	1,388.5	1,457.9	1,412.8	1,420.9	32.4	2.3
Education and health services.....	1,710.3	1,776.9	1,745.1	1,763.2	52.9	3.1
Leisure and hospitality.....	780.8	833.2	792.2	798.3	17.5	2.2
Other services.....	392.9	408.9	405.9	405.6	12.7	3.2

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Area and Industry	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015 ^(P)	Change from Feb 2014 to Feb 2015 ^(P)	
					Number	Percent
Government.....	1,289.6	1,310.4	1,272.4	1,297.0	7.4	0.6
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,727.0	2,831.2	2,766.2	2,780.6	53.6	2.0
Mining, logging, and construction.....	94.0	107.1	103.5	103.2	9.2	9.8
Manufacturing.....	178.7	181.0	180.0	179.3	0.6	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	502.6	533.5	516.8	511.7	9.1	1.8
Information.....	46.4	46.4	45.5	45.5	-0.9	-1.9
Financial activities.....	201.5	205.0	206.1	205.2	3.7	1.8
Professional and business services.....	431.1	452.7	438.6	438.6	7.5	1.7
Education and health services.....	586.7	602.0	592.5	602.2	15.5	2.6
Leisure and hospitality.....	229.1	242.0	233.6	236.7	7.6	3.3
Other services.....	115.1	119.1	117.4	118.9	3.8	3.3
Government.....	341.8	342.4	332.2	339.3	-2.5	-0.7
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ.....						
Total nonfarm.....	1,842.2	1,912.5	1,881.2	1,903.6	61.4	3.3
Mining and logging.....	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	-0.1	-2.9
Construction.....	94.4	96.7	97.4	98.3	3.9	4.1
Manufacturing.....	118.1	117.4	116.2	116.7	-1.4	-1.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	360.0	383.7	370.5	370.1	10.1	2.8
Information.....	33.8	34.9	34.1	34.6	0.8	2.4
Financial activities.....	161.5	165.9	164.4	166.0	4.5	2.8
Professional and business services.....	301.0	320.9	315.0	317.0	16.0	5.3
Education and health services.....	265.5	278.3	276.8	277.9	12.4	4.7
Leisure and hospitality.....	200.0	202.7	202.0	205.9	5.9	3.0
Other services.....	63.8	66.3	68.1	69.3	5.5	8.6
Government.....	240.7	242.4	233.4	244.5	3.8	1.6
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA.....						
Total nonfarm.....	2,141.2	2,244.2	2,205.0	2,217.2	76.0	3.5
Mining and logging.....	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	-0.1	-11.1
Construction.....	96.2	100.7	100.8	101.2	5.0	5.2
Manufacturing.....	118.7	122.6	122.3	122.3	3.6	3.0
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	347.9	372.8	357.7	353.3	5.4	1.6
Information.....	75.6	80.0	79.6	80.0	4.4	5.8
Financial activities.....	126.2	128.7	128.1	128.1	1.9	1.5
Professional and business services.....	430.8	461.9	457.1	461.4	30.6	7.1
Education and health services.....	323.1	328.8	324.3	328.1	5.0	1.5
Leisure and hospitality.....	239.7	256.8	246.7	251.1	11.4	4.8
Other services.....	81.0	83.9	83.4	84.4	3.4	4.2
Government.....	301.1	307.1	304.2	306.5	5.4	1.8
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV.....						
Total nonfarm.....	3,057.8	3,156.3	3,095.8	3,109.8	52.0	1.7
Mining, logging, and construction.....	140.8	147.9	146.2	144.8	4.0	2.8
Manufacturing.....	49.6	49.8	49.1	48.9	-0.7	-1.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities.....	386.2	416.2	399.0	394.8	8.6	2.2
Information.....	77.0	76.6	76.4	76.2	-0.8	-1.0
Financial activities.....	150.6	150.8	148.3	148.7	-1.9	-1.3
Professional and business services.....	694.4	707.5	702.0	705.0	10.6	1.5
Education and health services.....	402.8	416.0	409.1	416.5	13.7	3.4
Leisure and hospitality.....	280.6	299.2	288.7	288.5	7.9	2.8
Other services.....	190.7	194.0	191.9	192.1	1.4	0.7

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 largest metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Area and Industry	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015 ^(P)	Change from Feb 2014 to Feb 2015 ^(P)	
					Number	Percent
Government.....	685.1	698.3	685.1	694.3	9.2	1.3